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Air Compliance News

It's Just a Click Away

I remember the only source of information growing up was an old stack of used Britannica encyclopedias we had at our home. Today, information is available at our fingertips via the internet on your laptop, iPad, Cell Phone, or Notebook. It only takes a little typing on any search engine and click or two to get all the answers you need.

Wondering if the recent heat wave in the east is yet another sign of global warming? Click [HERE](#) for an article from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Or, for a slightly different perspective, you can click [HERE](#) for an article from *Time*.

Clearly, the quality of the information you receive from those sites can be biased or lacking proper research or citation, so you have to incorporate some knowledge of the sources of the information you click on.

For example, if you would like to learn about an EPA Test Method, the only site to visit is the US Environmental Protection Agency Emissions Measurement Center, [HERE](#). Looking for a quick connect to the Code of Federal Regulations? Go directly to the source, click [HERE](#).

If you are involved in air issues, you have probably visited the EPA site for MACT standards, [HERE](#), and the page for PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration), [HERE](#). Looking for a stack testing company affiliated with STAC (Source Testing Accreditation Council)? Click [HERE](#).

Want to follow the ongoing Gulf oil spill cleanup? Click [HERE](#) for the Coast Guard page, [HERE](#) for EPA's page, [HERE](#) for the NOAA page, or [HERE](#) for BP's page. Interested in joining a professional organization? I would start with the Air & Waste Management Association, [HERE](#).

The choices may seem overwhelming. Fortunately, when you need to perform a Stack Test for a permit compliance demonstration, complete a CEMS RATA, test using FTIR, determine the efficiency of your Thermal Oxidizer, tune your boiler, or need Analytical Laboratory Services, there is really only one place to click: www.aircomp.com.

Chris Tecca | Sales Associate

To reach Chris, click [HERE](#).



Proposed Air Transport Rule

On July 6, 2010 the US EPA proposed the Transport Rule, which would require 31 states and the District of Columbia to significantly improve air quality by reducing power plant emissions that contribute to ozone and fine particle pollution in other states.

This proposal would require significant reductions in sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions that cross state lines. Emissions reductions will begin to take effect in 2012 – within one year after the rule is finalized. By 2014, the rule and other state and EPA actions would reduce power plant SO₂ emissions by 71 percent over 2005 levels. Power plant NO_x emissions would drop by 52 percent. This proposed rule would replace EPA's 2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR).

Key elements for the 31 affected states and the District of Columbia:

- Twenty-eight states would be required to reduce both annual SO₂ and NO_x emissions. By reducing the emissions from the upwind states, the proposal would help downwind states attain air quality standards, specifically the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards established in 2006 and the 1997 annual PM 2.5 standards.
- Twenty-six states would be required to reduce NO_x emissions during the hot summer months of the ozone season because they contribute to downwind states' ozone pollution. By reducing the emissions from the upwind states, the proposal would help downwind states' attain air quality standards, specifically the 1997 ground-level ozone standard.

EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. To download a copy of the proposed rule, go to www.epa.gov/airtransport.

EPA Finalizing GHG Reporting Rules for Four Emission Sources

On June 28, 2010, Administrator Jackson signed the final rule for Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases from Magnesium Production, Underground Coal Mines, Industrial Wastewater Treatment, and Industrial Waste Landfills. This action amends the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program requirements in 40 CFR Part 98 finalizing the reporting for four source categories (subparts T, FF, II and TT, respectively).

These source categories will begin collecting emissions data on January 1, 2011, with the first annual reports submitted to EPA on March 31, 2012.

Go to <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/advpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/ce3562c8face833f85257751005ee3db!OpenDocument> to view the preamble and rule.

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April marks the 40th anniversary of the EPA and of Earth Day.
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday>

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Strategic Plan

EPA is seeking public comment on its draft FY 2011-2015 strategic plan. Administrator Jackson's seven priorities are:

- Taking action on climate change
- Improving air quality
- Protecting America's waters
- Cleaning up our communities
- Assuring the safety of chemicals
- Expanding the conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice
- Building strong state and tribal partnerships

The draft plan identifies the measurable environmental and human health benefits the public can expect over the next five years and describes how EPA intends to achieve those

results. The draft plan proposes five strategic goals and five cross-cutting fundamental strategies that aim to foster a renewed commitment to accountability, transparency and inclusion. The plan is prepared in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993.

The public comment period began June 18 and will close July 30. EPA will use stakeholder feedback to prepare the final strategic plan, which will be released by September 30. Comments on the draft strategic plan may be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

The Docket ID number is EPA-HQ-OA-0486.



EPA Notifies States of Areas That Would Not Meet Tighter Lead Air Standards

EPA has notified states of the initial list of areas that would not meet new, more protective national air quality standards for lead. In response to recommendations from state and tribal representatives, EPA's regional administrators sent letters to governors of all states and territories notifying them of their current status. EPA notified 12 of those states that they have at least one area under consideration for a nonattainment designation based on the 2008 lead standards (0.15 micrograms per cubic meter). A nonattainment area would include counties with monitors that show violations of the lead standard and nearby areas contributing to that violation.

Using data from currently operating monitors, EPA will designate nonattainment areas by October 2010. States and tribes may comment on the plans outlined in the letters, and provide additional information to EPA by August 16, 2010. The public may also review the agency's plans and provide comment through August 16.

For more information go to: <http://www.epa.gov/leaddesignations>

EPA and States Complete First Phase of School Air Monitoring Initiative

EPA has completed air quality testing outside 63 schools in 22 states and at two tribal schools. The testing was done as part of a school air monitoring initiative announced last March. EPA will now analyze the data to understand whether air quality at these schools poses long-term health concerns for children.

The agency has posted preliminary data to its Web site throughout the project. To date, the agency has posted more than 22,500 sampling results for the schools.

EPA released health analyses for two schools: Pittsboro Elementary School in Pittsboro, Ind. and Minnesota International Middle Charter School in Minneapolis. At both schools, levels of the key pollutants monitored were below levels of both short- and long-term concern. EPA previously released analyses for two schools in Tennessee.

The remaining health analyses will be issued throughout the summer and fall, as EPA completes them for each school. EPA will use the results to determine next steps, which could include additional monitoring at a school or the surrounding community, or enforcement actions where appropriate.

EPA experts analyzing the monitoring data also examine information on wind direction and wind speed from meteorological stations located at the schools, data on historical wind and weather patterns in the area, information about sources of air toxics in the vicinity of each school and information about the pollutants and health effects associated with long-term exposure.

More information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/schoolair>

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Air Monitoring Response to BP Oil Spill

EPA is conducting air monitoring for ozone and airborne particulate matter. The air monitoring conducted through July 7 has found levels of ozone and particulates ranging from the “good” to “unhealthy for sensitive groups” levels on EPA’s Air Quality Index. EPA’s ‘Air Monitoring on the Gulf Coastline’ page, at <http://www.epa.gov/BPSpill/air.html> has complete information.



EPA Sets First Air Quality Standard for SO₂ in 40 Years

EPA has issued a final new standard for sulfur dioxide (SO₂), setting the one-hour SO₂ health standard at 75 parts per billion (ppb), a level designed to protect against short-term exposures ranging from five minutes to 24 hours. EPA is revoking the current 24-hour and annual SO₂ health standards because the science indicates that short-term exposures are of greatest concern and the existing standards would not provide additional health benefits.

EPA is also changing the monitoring requirements for SO₂. The new requirements assure that monitors will be placed where SO₂ emissions impact populated areas. New monitors required by this rule must begin operating no later than Jan. 1, 2013. EPA is expecting to use modeling as well as monitoring to determine compliance with the new standard.

The final rule also changes the Air Quality Index to reflect the revised SO₂ standard. This change will improve states' ability to alert the public when short-term SO₂ levels may affect their health.

The first National Ambient Air Quality Standards for SO₂ were set in 1971, establishing both a primary standard to protect health and a secondary standard to protect the public welfare. Annual average SO₂ concentrations have decreased by 71 percent since 1980.

The final rule addresses only the SO₂ primary standards, which are designed to protect public health. EPA will address the secondary standard – designed to protect the public welfare, including the environment – as part of a separate review to be completed in 2012.

EPA expects to identify or designate areas not meeting the new standard by June 2012. For more information, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide/>

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Upcoming Events

July 20-21, 2010

Manufacturers Education Council 20th Annual Air & Water Permitting Conference, Columbus, Ohio. For information go to www.mecseminars.com/Programs/PermittingConference.html

July 21-23, 2010

Florida Chamber's 24th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School, Marco Island, Florida. For registration, go to www.floridaenet.com/

Visit us in booth 18!

August 30 - September 2, 2010

Power Plant Air Pollutant Control "MEGA" Symposium, Baltimore, Maryland. For details go to www.awma.org/megasym/

Air Compliance

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